

sounded like what the President's speech was all about last night. There was no real solutions in dealing with the problem. Everybody's concerned about it. Everybody feels empathy and sympathy for the people in the Gulf, the thousands of people who have lost their jobs and who are out of work, the environmental problem that's been created. But what people want is they want a solution to the problem.

It has now been 57 days, 57 days since this tragedy occurred. And what did the President do? He has suspended oil drilling in the Gulf for 6 months. Now, that's going to result in as many as 150,000 people losing their jobs, and for the oil people that work on those derricks out there in the Gulf, that's 150,000 jobs that it not only affects them, it affects almost six times that number of people who have ancillary jobs that work in the restaurants, that work on the beaches down there, all the things that are going on down in the Gulf. So you're looking at the potential of half a million to a million jobs being affected adversely because we haven't dealt with the problem.

There have been other countries right after the spill took place that offered to send skimmers, ships over here to help skim up the oil on the surface of the ocean. We have had other countries that offered other help, and it's all been turned down. The Jones Act should have been suspended, but it was not suspended, and as a result, the oil crisis, the spill goes on and on and on.

It is extremely important that we address the problem as quickly as possible. I'm not an engineer. I don't know what the answer is. But today we had a meeting with people who had talked to the BP oil company and had talked to other oil engineers, and there are things that are going on right now that they believe will address the problem, hopefully in the next 2 or 3 or 4 weeks or at least another month or month-and-a-half, but at least they're moving on the problem now with auxiliary wells being drilled down into the bottom of the Gulf to choke off the spill.

All I'd like to say tonight, in addition to what's already been said, is that we have a tragedy down there that should not be compounded by what the problem has advocated, and that was he advocated last night that we come up with an energy bill, i.e., the cap-and-trade bill. And the cap-and-trade tax bill will tax all energy producers that emit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere. And if translated, that means that companies around this country will have to pay hundreds of thousands and maybe millions of dollars more for their utility bills which will be passed on to the consumer in the form of higher prices, and the average family is going to be affected to the tune of about \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year if cap-and-tax is passed.

This is a time to deal with the crisis in the Gulf, not a time to start talking about the cap-and-tax bill which is going to cost jobs at a time when we

need to create jobs. The unemployment rate in this country is at 10 percent or very close to it, and if you include the people who are unemployed and looking for work who are no longer counted, we're looking at 13, 14, 15 percent that are unemployed.

So we need to address the economic problems, and we need to be dealing with that in a positive way and not going on with more taxes and more spending as the administration has talked about.

What I'd love to see if I had my druthers right now, Madam Speaker, is somebody like Ronald Reagan who could come in and cut taxes and cut spending and stimulate economic growth like he did, and as a result, we had 20 years of economic growth.

Right now what we're looking at is more unemployment, and now they're talking about, because of the way the Gulf is being handled, the possibility of more double-digit unemployment.

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This is something that we can't tolerate right now. We need to be positive, we need to move ahead, and the President is not moving in that direction. And a perfect commentary is what was in the Los Angeles Times, not a conservative newspaper. And you heard liberal commentators all across the country last night saying the President is not addressing the problem, and he is way late in the first place, and in the second place, and in the third place.

So I would like to end by saying once again, I think the Los Angeles Times was right on the money when they said of Obama's speech, There's a pipe spewing a gazillion gallons of oil in the gulf, and what's he talking about? More taxes, more spending, and more wind-mills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### OIL SPILL UPDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue my regular real-time updates to my south Florida constituents on the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. I believe it's my responsibility to keep the families, homeowners, and businesses along the 75 miles of my coastline in my district fully informed so they can be prepared for all possibilities.

First things first. Obviously, the spill itself has to be capped. I certainly call on BP to deploy every possible resource, every expert, every technology, every available opportunity to plug

this hole. This is not about a question of whether the Federal Government is going to step in and come on with some magic silver bullet. This is an all-hands-on-deck approach. Everyone should be involved. And it will require scientists and geologists and people from other oil companies from around the world to help figure this thing out. The permits should have probably never been issued in the first place without having the necessary cleanup plans in place, but it is here and it is now and we need to get it done.

I had the opportunity a week or so ago to join some NOAA researchers, those are oceanographic experts, on a 9-hour mission in a P-3 plane over the gulf to really understand what was going on, what the currents were doing. Obviously, from the southeast Florida side, we're concerned about the current which may bring it through the Florida Straits and up through the Gulf Stream. We saw through the research that was done. There is this possibility of course, and the sooner we can cap the oil, the better.

We all know that if this oil does come to the east side of Florida, as it has to the panhandle, it will impact Florida homeowners and businesses—not to mention the environment—for generations to come. We need to do it now, and we need to take whatever action is necessary to finish that job.

The other thing I would like to say to my constituents—and obviously this is a national issue—but no one should have to suffer because of BP's recklessness, and taxpayers cannot and will not be stuck with footing even a dime of the bill for this debacle. BP has to be fully responsible for the full cost of plugging the leak, cleaning up the spill, and making every person, every business who is harmed whole again. I appreciate the fact that today there was discussion about \$20 billion being put in escrow that can be drawn down for businesses and local groups that have to clean up this mess to pay for it, but this may play out for a generation. Let me repeat myself: BP is responsible for the full cost down to the last dime.

In Florida, we have always been concerned about offshore drilling because we have a multibillion-dollar tourism industry that depends on our pristine waters, beautiful beaches, and coral reefs. Right now, every restaurant owner in places like Deerfield Beach, which is part of my district, every hotel worker in West Palm Beach, every entrepreneur with a small souvenir shop or a fishing charter is concerned and they're holding their breath as to whether this water spill will affect them, affect their businesses, their jobs, and their livelihood. I have seen the fear on their faces, and meeting with them has only strengthened my resolve to make sure we do not leave our children with this terrible fate.

We cannot let another generation pass without making a serious move to not only clean up this mess, but to